lines of the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation to safeguard tea, that is to say, the licencing of dealers in tea and thereby the practicability of scrutinising tea produced and tea illicitly obtained. I should be inclined to suggest that the Planters' Association should bring forward a private bill through the non-official member on the Legislative Council That possibly will be the earliest way of moving in the matter.

This matter was examined seven years ago. It has not come to anything. But I shall have the question studied *de novo*. Meanwhile I shall ask you to ask your Association to consider the propriety of having a private bill introduced in the Legislative Council.

19. Legislation to penalise the manufacture and sale of spurious and adulterated tea.

CAPTAIN M. F. SHORE (*Member, South Travancore Planters' Association*) said that the sale of imitation and adulterated tea had increased throughout India during recent years and the latest information put the annual sale at 10 million pounds. As far as he knew, the majority of this colossal amount was produced in South India, much of it in Virudanagar some 75 miles from the Travancore frontier and much in Travancore itself near Kottayam. The latter place treated the leaves of jungle plants which were not related to tea in any way. Many of the articles produced looked so much like tea that the average buyer was deceived and the poorer consumer, attracted by the low price at which this concoction was sold, purchased what he thought was tea but had no food value whatever. Some packets or tins were marked 'imitation tea' but the illiterate purchaser was not able to know this.

At least one tea producing company which used to sell its cheaper grades to small dealers for local consumption had been forced to abandon such sale as it was found that this tea was being adulterated and sold as the genuine article sometimes below the cost of production. This company now only sold locally in small quantities its most expensive grades with the result that its local sales had dropped considerably and the poorer purchaser could not get the genuine article at a price commensurate with his means. Samples of rubbish tea had been analysed and the ingredients could be forwarded to Government, if necessary. With the annual increase in production of spurious tea, the question was becoming serious for the planting industry and it was for it that he now spoke, but what was more important was the danger to the consumer who drank the tea.

The member therefore urged upon the Government the need for legislation to prevent or at least to penalise the manufacture and sale of rubbish tea. The Governments of the Punjab, the Central Provinces and Bengal had prescribed standards of quality for tea under their Food Adulteration Acts and the Governments of Bombay, Burma and Behar and Orissa were considering the question, while the Government of Madras had been approached by the U. P. A. S. I. in the matter and it was hoped that early steps would be taken by that Government to meet this pernicious practice.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Captain Shore, you have heard what I said a little while ago in my reply to Mr. Wright's representation. I shall be glad if you will supply me, confidentially if you like, with the results of the analysis that have been made in regard to adulterated tea.

20. Amendment of the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation, IX of 1087, on the lines suggested at the 24th session of the Assembly.

CAPTAIN M. F. SHORE (*Member, South Travancore Planters' Association*) said that at the 24th session of the Assembly, he had requested Government to make certain amendments to the Rubber Thefts Prevention Regulation, IX of 1087. The amendments proposed were :—

(1) The following clause should be added to Section (4), subsection (1): - "That licences may be granted only on deposit of Rs. 1,000 and that the names of such licence holders may, from time to time, be pubished in the Government Gazette." Section 4 would then read: "The Peishkar or other officer in charge of the Revenue Division may issue free of charge licences under his hand authorising the person to whom the same are granted to deal in rubber, that licences may be granted only on deposit of Rs. 1,000 and that the names of such licence holders may, from time to time, be published in the Government Gazette."

(2) The clause "In perpetuity and his deposit of Rs. 1,000 forfeited" should be added to Section 115, clause (3), which would read as "any person who is found guilty of any offence under this Regulation shall be liable to have his licence cancelled in perpetuity and his deposit of Rs. 1,000 forfeited."

(3) The clause "Or one member of the local planters' association nominated annually by Government to inspect in conjunction with either of the above" should be added to Section 10 which would read as "It shall be lawful for any Magistrate or for any police officer not below the rank of an Inspector or any person authorised in writing by the Peishkar or other officer in charge of the revenue Division or one member of the local planters' association nominated annually by Government to inspect, in conjunction with either of the above, licenced premises, to enter any licenced premises at any time between sun rise and sun set and to call for, inspect, and take extracts from any book required to be kept by this Regulation etc., etc."

With reference to these proposals, the member requested Government to state if they intended appointing Honorary Magistrates in the rubber-growing districts in order to assist the police to take active part in the suppression of rubber thefts.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Captain Shore, I, see you made representations on the same subject in the last Assembly. Well, those representations and your suggested amendments were forwarded to the Commissioner of the Devicolam Division, and the Land Revenue Commissioner for comment and advice. I am still awaiting reports from these officers. I shall take steps to have their replies expedited, and I shall go into this question fully.

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